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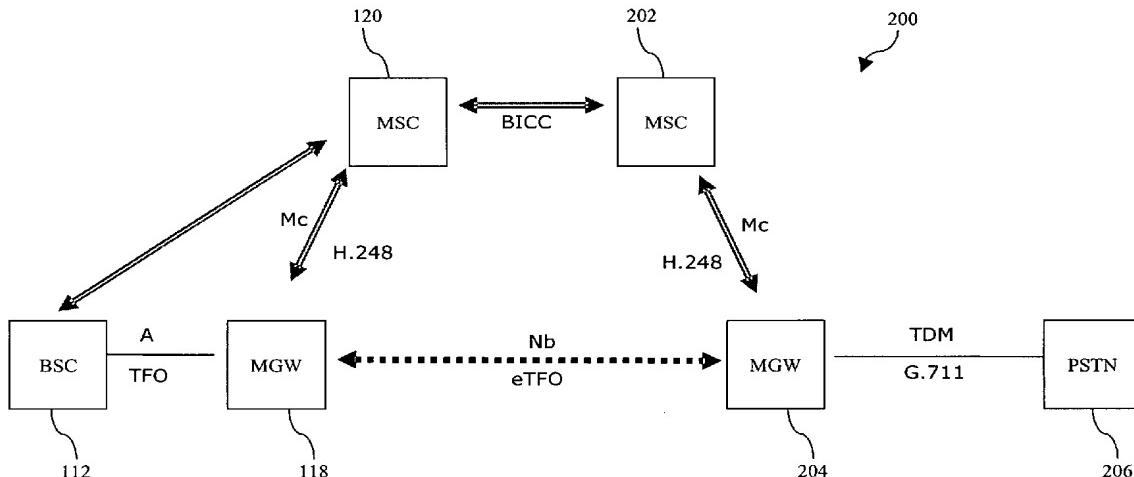
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(54) Title: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR PACKET-BASED TANDEM FREE OPERATION



(57) Abstract: A method and system are provided for enabling packet-based tandem free operation (TFO). In one example, the method includes monitoring packets sent between network elements to identify a TFO request message and a TFO acknowledgement message. A substitute TFO acknowledgement message is sent from an intermediate network element if no TFO acknowledgement message is identified, and both TFO and non-TFO call legs may be established.

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